

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 9, 2008. Claims 16, 20 and 21 are in the application, all of which are independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 18 and 20 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,980,319 (Ohta) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,757,070 (Lin). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns printing controlling printing and communicating with an information providing apparatus via a network. Image data to be printed is selected and downloaded from among data stored in the information providing apparatus.

According to one aspect of the invention, a recommended printing condition list is received from the information providing apparatus, and a printing condition selection list is extracted from the recommended printing list on the basis of printable condition information from the printer drivers.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to limit a user's selection of possible printing conditions from a print server side, thus limiting the range of possible print options to those proper to a specific application or a set of clients.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 16 is directed to a communication apparatus that communicates with an information providing apparatus via a network and connects to a plurality of printers. The apparatus includes a download unit configured to download the image data to be printed by the connected printers from

the information providing apparatus, and a storage unit configured to store a plurality of printer driver programs each of which respectively corresponds to each of the connected printers. The apparatus further includes a reception unit configured to receive, from the information providing apparatus, a recommended printing condition list which includes at least one of the models of printers, paper sizes, types of paper and layouts as a printing condition of printing the downloaded image data. In addition, the apparatus includes an acquisition unit configured to acquire printable condition information concerning the connected printers from the plurality of printer driver programs stored in the storage unit, a list extraction unit configured to extract a printing condition selection list from the recommended printing condition list received by the reception unit, on the basis of the printable condition information acquired by the acquisition unit, a condition selection unit configured to select a printing condition from the printing condition selection list extracted by the list extraction unit, and a generation unit configured to generate print data from the image data downloaded by the download unit, on the basis of the printing condition selected by the condition selection unit, by using one of the plurality of printer driver programs in the storage unit.

Independent Claims 20 and 21 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 16.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) receiving a recommending printing condition list from an information providing apparatus as a printing condition of printing downloaded image data, and (ii) extracting a printing

condition selection list from the recommended printing condition list, on the basis of the printable condition information acquired from a plurality of printer driver programs.

As understood by Applicant, Ohta is directed to a remote printing system that allows a user to send a hard copy to another via a portable digital device. Upon receiving an e-mail print notice, the portable digital device wirelessly searches for an appropriate print station by broadcasting a signal. In response to the signal, the print stations each send information on their printer characteristics such as availability status and print resolution, and an appropriate print station is selected based on a predetermined selection rule. See Ohta, Abstract.

Page 2 of the Office Action asserts that Ohta discloses receiving a recommended printing condition list from an information providing apparatus. Page 5 of the Office Action further asserts that Ohta (Figure 2, numeral 13 ) discloses characteristics in Ohta that are provided by a server.

However, Ohta is seen simply to disclose print stations sending information regarding their print characteristics to a print server, rather than receiving a recommended printing condition list from an information providing apparatus. See, e.g., Ohta, Column 11, line 55 to Column 12, line 10. Moreover, Ohta's Figure 2, element 13 simply depicts a print server, and the accompanying text is not seen to disclose that the print server is sending a recommended printing condition list, or that such a list is being received. See Ohta, Column 5, lines 6 to 26.

Since Ohta is not seen to disclose receiving a recommending printing condition list from an information providing apparatus, Applicant submits that it logically

follows that Ohta also does not disclose or suggest extracting a printing condition selection list from the recommended printing condition list, on the basis of the printable condition information acquired from a plurality of printer driver programs.

Lin is not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Ohta. In particular, Lin is seen to provide all printing conditions for all available printers for the user to select, rather than receiving a recommending printing condition list from an information providing apparatus, and extracting a printing condition selection list from the recommended printing condition list, on the basis of the printable condition information acquired from a plurality of printer driver programs.

Since the applied art is not seen to disclose the features of the present invention, the applied art is also not seen to disclose the attendant benefits of such an arrangement, such as allowing limitation of a user's selection of possible printing conditions from a print server side, for example to limit the range of possible print options to those proper to a specific application.

Therefore, independent Claims 18, 20 and 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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